

TOWCESTER RURAL DISTRICT



# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

Year 1965



ARTHUR LUCAS, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S.G., D.P.H.



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## SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1965

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	59,005
Population 1961 (Census)	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,198
Population (Registrar General's Mid Year Estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	...	16,290
Number of separate dwellings occupied (1961 Census)	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,263
Number of separate dwellings occupied 1965	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,734
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£421,385
Product of a Penny Rate, 1965	...	...	...	...	...	...	£1,698

<b>Live Births—</b>					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	302	151	151	
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	19	11	8	
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
					321	162	159	19.7
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	

<b>Stillbirths—</b>					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	1	1	—	
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	5	1	4	
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
					6	2	4	13.0
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	

					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Rate</i>
<b>Deaths (all causes)</b>	...	...	...	...	161	91	70	9.8
<b>Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion</b>	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	Nil
<b>Neo-natal Mortality</b>	...	...	...	...	4	3	1	12.4
<b>Early Neo-natal Mortality</b>	...	...	...	...	3	2	1	12.1
<b>Perinatal Mortality</b>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27.5

<b>Infant Mortality—</b>								
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	19.5
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	Nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Deaths from Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Deaths from Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	64

# Towcester Rural District Council

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## *Members of the Public Health Committee :*

Mr. R. J. Chapman, Mr. T. E. England (*Vice-Chairman*), Mr. H. Grice, Revd. H. P. Hoskin, Mr. T. P. Knowlton, Mr. J. W. Mawle, Mr. T. A. Messinger, Mrs. D. M. Moore, Mr. E. G. Nicholls (*Chairman*), Mrs. M. D. Paffey, Mr. W. E. G. Paffey, Mr. L. R. Rivett, Mr. W. J. Robertson, Mr. R. H. Whitlock.

## *Members of the Housing Committee :*

Mr. N. Abbott, Mrs. B. J. Dennis, Mr. J. H. Ivens, Mrs. M. Jelley, Mr. G. Lovell, Mr. E. M. Major-Lucas, Mr. D. McArthur, Mr. J. T. Pinkard, Mr. H. O. Prosser, Mr. R. L. C. Ridgway (*Vice-Chairman*), Mr. W. W. Stephenson (*Chairman*), Mr. R. A. Whitlock, Mr. S. G. Whitmore, Mrs. I. A. Wildbur.

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## *Public Health Officers of the Local Authority :*

### *Medical Officer of Health—*

ARTHUR LUCAS, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S.G., D.P.H.

### *also holds appointments of*

Medical Officer of Health to

Northampton Rural District.

Brackley Rural District.

Brackley Borough.

Assistant County Medical Officer of Health.

School Medical Officer.

## *Chief Public Health Inspector :*

DAVID JOSEPH POWELL, B.Sc.,

Certified Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

## *Senior Additional Public Health Inspector :*

RONALD FRANK HALL, C.S.I.B., M.R.S.H.

Certified Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

## *Surveyor and Architect :*

GEORGE BERRIDGE, M.Inst.R.A., A.I.A.A.



TOWCESTER.

*October, 1966.*

**To the Chairman and Councillors of the Rural District of Towcester.**

Mr. Chairman, My Lady, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The annual report of the Medical Officer of Health incorporating that of the Chief Public Health Inspector for the year 1965 is submitted on behalf of Dr. Arthur Lucas whose untimely death took place in May 1966. Dr. Lucas was appointed your Medical Officer in 1949 and was held in affectionate esteem by all who worked with him. For the past two years he had been in failing health and was well aware of the outcome of his affliction. He bore this knowledge with an uncomplaining courage and continued to work until his death. He will be sadly missed.

The report is presented in various sections, each dealing with an aspect of the environmental control of the area. This district, though rural in character and of moderate population size, does nevertheless present a number of public health problems. The necessity to maintain a total meat inspection service at the private abattoir at Blisworth, one of the largest in the Midlands and at which a total of 82,648 animals were inspected, causes the Chief Public Health Inspector to exercise much thought in the efficient deployment of his staff for other duties, which on occasion cannot always be fully covered. In addition the presence of national sporting events at Silverstone and Towcester bring into the district thousands of outside visitors all requiring catering and toilet facilities, together with the large recreational centre at Cosgrove with swimming baths, camping facilities and restaurants, require much supervisory control often at weekends. There are also chemical works, caravan sites and all the regular routine work of a public health department. In spite of these many problems and shortages of staff the environmental control has been maintained throughout the year in a satisfactory manner.

The statistics show that the district follows the national pattern with a rising birth and falling death rate. The great preponderance of deaths are caused by heart and circulatory diseases and the cancers, diseases occurring in the older age groups. It is however prudent to note that of the total of 161 deaths, 49 occurred before the age of 65, mainly from cancer and arterial disease, though three died from motor accidents and two (total 3) from cancer of the lung. The deaths from lung cancer rose last year to a national total of 26,399. The relationship between cancer of the lung and heavy cigarette smoking is indisputably proved, yet each year many young people start to smoke. It is the duty of all who influence young people, parents, teachers, doctors and many others whose example they may follow such as actors and sportsmen to set an example and show that smoking is a foolish habit.

Notifications of infectious diseases were satisfactorily low, there being no case of food poisoning, only two cases of dysentery and no outbreaks. There were, however, 28 cases of infective hepatitis, a viral infection affecting the liver and which has been locally notifiable in Northamptonshire since July 1962. No common factor was found in relation to this disease and as the infecting organism has never been isolated it is difficult to trace the source of infection. It is considered that it is, like food poisoning, probable that spread may take place through faulty personal hygiene, and it is relevant to stress once more the need for the greatest vigilance and strict personal hygiene in all those persons who are concerned with the sale and preparation of food. The need also to maintain a high rate of immunisation must be stressed annually as it is only by keeping the level high that the once prevalent infectious diseases are kept in check. There have been no cases of diphtheria in Northamptonshire since 1956 and none of poliomyelitis since 1961. The public memory of these illnesses is declining and parents must be reminded to have their children immunized against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, poliomyelitis and smallpox, not forgetting the necessary booster immunizations before school entry.

This annual report has been largely prepared by the Chief Public Health Inspector and his staff and I express my thanks to them for their help and co-operation. I wish to thank the Clerk and members of the Council for their encouragement and the County Medical Officer for his ready co-operation in the supply of information.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

JOAN M. ST. V. DAWKINS.



## SECTION A.

### NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

**Social Conditions**—Most of the land area in the district is used for agricultural purposes and although there are some 250 farms in the area the majority of the working population is employed outside agriculture. The non-ferrous foundry in Towcester has expanded considerably and is now producing a greater variety of machinery and machine tools. The two electrical component factories at Towcester employ labour drawn from all parts of the district, while the Allen Clark scientific research laboratory at Caswell attracts personnel of high qualification from all parts of the country. There is, in addition, employment on a limited scale at the Switch Gear works situated at Old Stratford and at the iron and lead oxide pigment works at Deanshanger. Many residents in the area are employed at Northampton, Roade and Wolverton mainly in the light engineering industry but it is also interesting to note the diversity of the skills available in the district by reference to a number of small, almost domestic, factories situated in the rural area, the most well-known being the briar pipe factory at Litchborough. As a contrast to these old established trades it ought to be mentioned that the newest are a wine blending and bottling concern and a large private abattoir.

The district is intersected by two trunk roads, the A.5 and the A.43 and also by the grand union canal. Also within its boundaries the district has the Grafton Hunt Kennels, Towcester Racecourse, the Silverstone Motor Racing Circuit and the Canal Museum at Stoke Bruerne. During the year further expansion has taken place at Cosgrove Lodge Park where the worked-out gravel pits have been attractively laid out as a recreational centre including a swimming pool, holiday tent sites, restaurant etc. and facilities for boating and fishing.

**Area**—The area of the district is 59,005 acres.

**Population**—The Registrar-General has estimated the resident mid-year population for 1965 to be 16,290 as compared with 16,140 in 1964. The natural increase in population, i.e., the excess of births over deaths, amounts to 160 persons as compared with 120 persons for the previous year.

**Deaths**—The total number of deaths assigned to the district by the Registrar-General after adjustment for outward and inward transferable deaths was 161 as compared with 184 for 1964. The crude death rate based on the mid-year population was 9.8 as compared with 11.4 for 1964. The following table shows the death rates for the quinquennium, 1961-65, together with the corresponding rates for England and Wales and the Administrative County.

Death Rates, 1961-1965					
	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
Towcester R.D. ...	11.7	11.2	11.6	11.4	9.8
Administrative County	11.18	11.07	11.21	10.56	10.8
England and Wales ...	12.0	11.9	12.2	11.6	11.5



A list of causes of death classified according to the Abridged List of Causes of Death as used in England and Wales is given in Table No. 1, whilst the history of the rate together with other vital statistics for 1919-1965 is shown in Table No. 2.

In order to make allowances for the age and sex distribution of populations in different areas, the Registrar-General has calculated the area comparability factor which, when multiplied by the local death rate, allows a truer local death rate of 9.3.

**Births**—The number of live births assigned to the district was 321 (162 males, 159 females) as compared with 304 in 1964, thus giving a birth rate of 19.7 per thousand of population, as compared with 18.5 in 1964. The following table shows the birth rate for the quinquennium, 1961-1965 together with other rates for comparison.

Birth Rates, 1961-1965					
	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
Towcester R.D. ...	16.6	16.17	19.5	18.5	19.7
Administrative County	18.04	18.37	18.62	19.10	18.8
England and Wales ...	17.4	18.0	18.2	17.1	18.1

The local birth rate, when modified by the application of the area comparability factor of 1.09 gives an adjusted rate of 21.5 as compared with 18.1 for England and Wales.

**Stillbirths**—The number of stillbirths registered was 6 as compared with 4 in 1964. This is equivalent to a rate of 18 per thousand total live and still births.

**Illegitimate Birth Rate**—19 illegitimate live births (11 males, 8 females) were registered as compared with 17 in 1964. This number gives a rate of 6.2 per cent live births as compared with 5.75 for the County.

**Infant Mortality**—The number of infants who died before attaining their first birthday was 4. The rate per thousand related live births was 12.4 which is lower than the national rate of 19.0.

Deaths under one year per thousand Live Births					
	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
Towcester R.D.	15.2	18.11	6.6	19.5	12.4
Administrative County	17.61	19.54	17.92	18.36	16.8
England and Wales ...	27.3	21.4	20.9	21.3	19.0

Legitimate infant deaths numbered 4 giving a rate of 13.2 per thousand legitimate live births.

No illegitimate infant deaths were recorded.

**Neo-Natal Mortality**—Deaths of infants under 4 weeks amounted to 4 giving a rate per thousand total live births of 12.4. Deaths of infants under one week numbered 3, giving a rate of 12.1 per thousand total live births.

Stillbirths and deaths under one week combined total 9, giving a perinatal mortality rate of 27.5 per thousand total live and still births.

## SECTION B.

### GENERAL PROVISION OF SERVICES

**Laboratory Facilities**—The bacteriological work associated with the control of infectious diseases is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service, whose laboratory at Northampton General Hospital is in the charge of Dr. L. Hoyle. The bacteriological examination of water, milk, food and ice-cream is also carried out by Dr. Hoyle whose services are invaluable to the district particularly since the establishment of the new abattoir has greatly increased the number of specimens of diseased meat which need to be examined as soon as possible.

**Ambulance Facilities**—This work is undertaken by the County Council. The ambulance vehicles are stationed at Towcester and the drivers and attendants are recruited locally.

**Hospitals**—There are no hospitals in the district. Infectious disease cases which require hospital treatment are accommodated by the Oxford Regional Hospital Board at their Harborough Road Hospital, Northampton, which is under the management of the Northampton Hospital Management Committee. There is one small private nursing home in the district catering specially for the aged and chronic sick.

**Child Welfare Centres and Clinics**—Infant welfare centres are held at Towcester, Deanshanger, Potterspury, Old Stratford and Silverstone and the mobile clinic attends at Abthorpe, Blakesley, Blisworth and Greens Norton. Transport facilities are provided by the County Council in various parts of the district for mothers and children to attend clinics at a nearby centre.

**Nursing in the Home, Midwives and Health Visitors Services**—The whole of the district is covered by these services either by the district nurses or the health visitors.

**The Home Help Service**—This essential service is operated by the County Council in all parishes of the district for domiciliary and maternity cases where considered necessary and especially for the care of old people in order that they can be allowed to remain in their own homes rather than be removed to an institution.

**Care and After-Care Service**—The County Council provide a number of facilities in respect of the crippled, aged persons, diabetics and the mentally ill. They are also responsible for the preventive services against tuberculosis.

**National Assistance Acts**—The removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention is the responsibility of the Council. Instant removal of urgent cases can now be obtained on the joint certificate of the Medical Officer of Health and a general practitioner. This procedure makes it unnecessary for an application to be made to a court of summary jurisdiction until three weeks after the removal. No action under this Act was found necessary during the year.

The Council are also responsible in certain circumstances for the burial or cremation of the body of any person who has died or who has been found dead in the district. No such burials were dealt with during the year.



## SECTION C.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

**Water Supply**—The district is well provided with public water mains thus making it possible for most properties in the district to obtain water from a public supply. Some isolated farms and cottages and a few private estates, however, still maintain their own source of supply. The Bucks Water Board are the statutory undertakers responsible for maintaining the public supply the source of which is the river Great Ouse. Abstraction is effected from the river gravels near Buckingham the water being pumped to the Board's works at Foxcote where it is processed before entering the distribution system at Whittlebury. Storage and balancing reservoirs are situated at Maidford, Field Burcote, Tiffield and Paulerspury.

Representative samples from public mains in the district were submitted for analysis during the year by the public health department and all proved to be satisfactory. However, of 184 samples taken from the consumers' taps by the Water Board, nine contained coliform and six E. Coli. Type 1. Each of the latter samples indicating presence of bacteria were re-submitted and then proved to be free from contamination indicating that the sampling procedure was originally at fault. Although a few complaints received from consumers about the discolouration of the water were referred to the Water Board for attention, the public can feel secure in the knowledge that the bacteriological purity of the water is under constant supervision and has always proved to have been safe for human consumption. In contrast, the results of the bacteriological examination of samples of water taken from private sources during the year showed that of 33 such samples 24 proved to be unsatisfactory, six satisfactory and 3 suspicious. It is only fair to point out, however, that many of the preceding samples were taken from the same systems and were necessarily repeated in order to try and discover the possible sources of contamination. It was found necessary to thoroughly clean out and sterilize the whole of one of the private schemes involved before satisfactory samples were obtained—quite an involved process—but the occurrence again serves to illustrate the advantage of public mains over the private schemes. One can be certain of uninterrupted control of the quality in the former whereas the private system tends to be neglected. The department endeavours to sample water from private supplies as frequently as other duties allow.

The average daily consumption of water from the public mains for all purposes amounted to 46 gallons per head per day of the population ; the total consumption for the year being 253,651,000 gallons—approximately 24 million gallons less than that consumed in 1964 when the per capita consumption was 49 gallons. The significance of this decrease—the first since the public scheme was installed—cannot at present be explained unless it is due to greater vigilance on the part of the Board with regard to defective mains. The provision of modern amenities in existing dwellings has, if anything, proceeded at a greater pace than hitherto and the building of new houses has been on a scale comparable with 1964 so that no simple explanation is obvious for the decrease in consumption of the



water unless due to the cause already mentioned. It will be interesting to take note of the consumption for 1966 for the purpose of comparison. As requested by the Ministry, I am able to report that the public supply is not plumbo-solvent and in the same instance to report that the Council have resolved that they are in favour of the fluoridation of the public water supplies in their area. It will be appreciated, however, that the actual introduction of the latter process depends on the Water Board and on the consent of its constituent authorities.

**Swimming Baths**—The recently installed swimming pool at Cosgrove Lodge Park is now extensively used by the public during the summer and several inspections were made by the health inspectors to ensure that the pool and equipment were properly maintained. This pool is fitted with efficient sterilizing, filtration and heating apparatus and its maintenance has always been found to be very satisfactory. Six samples of water from the pool were submitted for bacteriological analysis during the year and proved that the water was kept in a condition of good bacteriological purity. Most other swimming pools in the area are situated in various schools, the largest of these being at the Towcester Grammar School. This again has a re-circulating and sterilizing plant and is under the care of a qualified chemist who keeps the water at a satisfactory degree of purity. As a consequence no samples were taken by the department but samples were obtained of the treated and untreated water from pools attached to a private residence and a private school in the district. The treated water from the latter proved to be bacteriologically satisfactory on each occasion but an adverse report resulted in one instance from the former.

**Sewage Disposal, Drainage and Sewerage**—It is pleasing to be able to record the good progress being made on all the sewerage and sewage disposal schemes actually under construction. In fact, the Pattishall/Cold Higham scheme now only needs a few finishing touches before its entire completion. All domestic properties in the area are connected and five farms are also served and already the great improvement in the ditches is obvious. It is significant that for the first time within memory no complaints of unpleasant smells from the outfall ditches in these parishes were received in this office. Similarly, the Litchborough scheme is virtually complete, the disposal works being in use and practically all the house connections installed at the time of writing.

It was hoped that the sewerage of the remaining parishes in the district could have followed in an unbroken sequence ; the actual work on the regional scheme covering Abthorpe etc., it was anticipated, would follow the Litchborough and Pattishall schemes. It now appears inevitable, as the Abthorpe scheme has not yet been finalised by the Consulting Engineers, that there will be an appreciable lapse of time before the next sewerage scheme is actually under way. This delay is very much to be deplored especially when one considers that twelve villages in the district are still being drained into watercourses some of which actually pass through the centre of the villages which they serve. The nuisance and hazard to public health likely to result from these open sewers increases yearly as more and more properties are modernized and fitted with w.cs. and other amenities which continue to add to the already heavy pollution.



In considering the needs of the larger centres of population, the equally serious nuisance and lack of sewerage facilities which exist in hamlets and other groups of isolated properties tend to be overlooked. Indeed, the department finds itself equally involved in problems from such areas. The legal position in such cases is often very obscure and the remedy very difficult and extremely expensive having regard to the number of properties involved. Mention has been made in previous reports of trouble being experienced in the hamlet of Wood Burcote and the Council's decision to accept and proceed immediately with the Consulting Engineers' scheme for this hamlet is to be very much commended. On the other hand, the failure of the negotiations between the parties concerned with the proposed installation of a scheme to deal with the Daventry road area of Towcester is to be deplored. It should be placed on record, however, that the Wool Company have carried out work to the drainage system, which had been causing a serious nuisance, and have succeeded in improving matters for the time being. The effectiveness of the measures taken by the Company can only properly be assessed, however, after a suitable lapse in time.

It is felt that the Council are, in the future, going to be troubled with complaints from these small areas of population particularly if, as has happened in the larger villages, modern amenities are going to be installed. The department has been fortunate in one instance, after lengthy persuasion, in being able to secure the provision of a new drainage and sewerage disposal system in respect of one isolated area in the district and fortunately at no expense to the Council. We may not be as fortunate in other such cases especially where several owners are involved. Reference may be usefully made here to the arrangement agreed to be carried out at Gayton where the Council have decided to service the outfall from a group of isolated cottages on completion of the work by the owners of the property. At the time of writing the department is investigating the sewage disposal arrangement in the area of the Blisworth Railway Station and it depends on the findings, and the degree of success in persuading the works to be carried out as a private venture, whether it will become necessary for the Council to make a decision as to the necessity for extending the public sewerage system to serve this area.

Following the completion of the schemes serving Astcote, Eastcote, Fosters Booth, Pattishall, Cold Higham and Grimscote, the night soil collection will now be discontinued in these places after the owner and occupier of each property has been given suitable notice. The latter is to enable the pail closets to be converted to water closets before the withdrawal of this service but I am pleased to report that practically all conversions have already been effected by the owners either voluntarily or after a visit by the public health inspectors. All conversions in the village of Gayton have been completed in the same manner and the difficult case at Blisworth, mentioned in last year's report, has now been solved partly by persuasion and partly with the assistance of the Housing Act, 1964. The aim of the Council is, of course, to abolish the night soil collection over the whole of the district as soon as possible but the delay in the progress of sewerage schemes, as already remarked upon, must mean that this primitive and expensive form of conservancy be retained for a longer period than was anticipated.



**Public Cleansing**—The weekly collection of house refuse continues to work fairly smoothly in the parishes according to the following table :-

Monday	Wicken, Deanshanger, Old Stratford, Cosgrove, Yardley Gobion, Grafton Regis and Alderton.
Tuesday	Potterspury including Wakefield Estate and Potterspury Lodge, Paulerspury, Astcote, Eastcote, Dalscote, Pattishall including Cornhill, Fosters Booth, Cold Higham, Grimscothe, Litchborough, Maidford and Adstone.
Wednesday	Silverstone, Whittlebury, Wood Burcote, Weston and Weedon, Wappenham, Slapton, Bradden, Abthorpe including Southfields Place.
Thursday	Towcester, Caldecote, Hulcote, Stoke Bruerne, Shutlanger and Heathencote.
Friday	Gayton, Tiffield, Blisworth, Greens Norton including Caswell, Foxley, Seawell Grounds, Blakesley, Woodend and Plumpton.

Complaints from the public have mainly centred on the question of the collection from, and the necessity of carrying bins to, the kerbside. New residents in the district who have previously received the benefit of a collection from the actual premises—perhaps two and even some three times a week—find it difficult when they first move into the district to accept the lower standards provided. One finds it equally difficult on hygienic grounds to explain why one district should have better facilities than another. Lack of uniformity in services is no doubt one of the matters which will be taken into account in the review of local government. It must be placed on record, however, that the Council have already discussed the question of collection from premises because the legality of kerbside collection is in doubt ; so the time may be nearer than anticipated when the kerbside collection in the district will be superseded by the removal of house refuse from the actual premises. This extra service has already been provided in the case of aged persons or of severe hardship.

House refuse collected in the district is disposed of by tipping at Wood Burcote and Maidford. The difficulty arising from the increased bulk and putrefactive content of house refuse continues to be a problem. Even on the central tip at Wood Burcote, where the Council's earth moving tractor is working for most of the time, there appears some difficulty with flies, rodents and fire. Even so, there has been a considerable improvement since the new tractor has been available and covering matter has been more plentiful. The Maidford tip, however, has presented some trouble as it is not possible to service it as frequently as desirable because the earth moving equipment is stationed at Towcester. The introduction of a refuse collection from premises may present an opportunity for the Council to reconsider the advisability of concentrating all tipping at one site. Larger capacity refuse collecting vehicles will undoubtedly be required to enable such a collection to be carried out efficiently, and at an economic cost, and for this reason longer hauls will be more practicable and should remove the necessity for tipping on more than one site.

Complaints received concerning tipping of house refuse at Gayton were referred to a neighbouring authority who have a disposal point in this parish.

Trade refuse is collected by the Council from some of the larger commercial establishments but only on request and subject to appropriate charges. Other firms and undertakings are allowed to use the Council's tip under supervision and a charge is made for each disposal. Once yearly



collections of bulky items from domestic premises have been continued and have proved extremely successful. These collections have done much to prevent dumping of rubbish in ditches and hedge rows although litter left by itinerants has sometimes to be removed because it is seldom possible to discover the persons responsible.

As has already been mentioned, the Council continue to collect night soil in those parishes still not provided with sewers and although the number of pail closets have been greatly reduced by conversion to water closets, too many still remain and the problem of disposal of the contents of the night soil vehicles without causing nuisance, hazards to public health or pollution of watercourses is becoming extremely difficult. The decrease in the number of pail closets has, however, made it possible to allow the vehicles to give a free emptying service to every septic tank in the district where sewers are not available.

**Rodent Control**—A subsequent table shows the inspections made and treatments carried out in the district for the destruction of rats and mice. Dwelling houses are treated at the charge of 1/- per visit and the treatment of business premises is undertaken on a time cost basis plus 10% for establishment charges. There is also an arrangement whereby the treatment of farms can be carried out by subscription to an annual contract service and at the end of the year, 22 farms were being dealt with in this manner.

Fortunately it has now been possible for the Council's operator to receive training in disinfestation methods from expert demonstrators employed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and although he is still only part time on this particular work, it has been possible to make up some of the arrears in the treatment of the sewerage systems in the rural district. The refuse tips were again allocated a substantial portion of the time given to disinfestation work.

**Disinfection**—Terminal disinfection is no longer practised as the fall in the incidence and severity of infectious diseases has decreased. When necessary, premises clothing and bedding are treated by means of gaseous and liquid disinfectants as required.

**Disinfestation—Insects**—Several infestations of cluster flies in domestic premises were dealt with during the year. In one case, where the work proved to be particularly difficult, expensive and needing specialized equipment, the work was referred to a private firm dealing specifically with such problems. A number of infestations of ants and several wasps' nests were dealt with but no case of bed-bug, cockroach or flea infestations was reported. Much time and material was devoted to the refuse tips in order to deal with, or minimise the possibility of fly infestation. Nevertheless, some complaints were received and dealt with as promptly and efficiently as circumstances on the tip will allow.

**Factories Act, 1961**—There are now 96 factories on the register but no outworkers were notified during the year. Details of inspections etc., are to be found in a subsequent table.

**Office, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963**—As previously reported, owing to shortage of staff and the constant large increase of work which was precipitated upon the department with the coming into force of the new Meat Inspection Regulations, it was not found possible to carry out routine inspections of any kind up to the end of 1964. It was hoped, however, to have been able to inspect every registered premises in detail during 1965 and a start was made early in the year. Despite good intentions, loss of staff, difficulty in replacement and a further increase in the amount of slaughtering in the district brought the situation back to what it was in 1964. For these reasons the number of inspections which were made in 1965 fell far short of 100% which it had been hoped would be undertaken. Fifty four actual visits were carried out in 1965, four new registrations were recorded and two were cancelled thus leaving a total of 95 registered premises in the district at the end of 1965. No accidents were reported under the Act during the year. Of the premises actually inspected, the major defects brought to the notice of occupiers were two cases of inadequate heating and one inadequate staircase. In addition to the above, a few minor contraventions were found in the remainder of the premises inspected. These included lack of thermometers and of abstracts of the Act. No cases of overcrowding were discovered. Reference perhaps ought to be made, however, to the fact that most of the inspections were carried out when the adequacy of the heating could not be properly judged and special attention will have to be given to this point at the appropriate time this year. It has been possible to give much more attention to the inspection of these premises during the current year and it is hoped that the present staff will remain and that other duties will not prevent all the premises being examined.

For the reasons already explained above, it was very much regretted that staff was not available to carry out the special lighting survey which was requested in the month of November 1965. Some delay was also caused by the late delivery of a suitable photometer but a number of premises were visited early in 1966 for the purpose of recording the intensities of illumination on the lines laid down by a circular issued by the Ministry. The findings of the lighting survey showed that lack of uniformity in light intensity in different parts of rooms is the most common fault found in both shops and offices and arises from badly designed and incorrectly placed light fittings. There is no doubt, also, that shopkeepers are generally more concerned with the provision of lighting for shop displays than for preparation, store rooms and working planes. It is interesting to note that an electrical shop (appropriately enough) had uniform illumination in all its rooms but the survey definitely indicated that the standard of lighting in stores, preparation rooms, passages and stairs is not as good as that generally found in the shops themselves. From the offices examined it appeared that, on the whole, lighting was generally more uniform in the working rooms of offices than shops. Nevertheless, there is still much room for improvement in the design of lighting arrangements in offices, particularly at filing cabinets.

Particular note was required to be made of any undue glare in any shop or office but I am able to report that from the premises inspected no complaint of any undue glare was received and none was apparent at the time of inspection.



**Moveable Dwellings**—Apart from licences for three sites covering single caravans, the district has within its boundaries three residential sites each accommodating approximately 35, 40 and 70 caravans respectively. Sanitary and other accommodation is now up to model byelaw standards on each site, and in addition, one of the sites has provision for direct connection of suitably equipped caravans directly to the drainage system. It is felt, from experience, that this is the only really satisfactory method of dealing with permanent residential sites and legislation should provide for the compulsory equipment of all sites for residential caravans with means of providing the same amenities as exist in ordinary dwellings. After all, the powers-that-be hope for, and encourage, the rapid reduction in the housing problem by the swift erection of prefabricated houses of non-traditional materials but the provision of proper amenities is always required. Why, therefore, allow caravans used for permanent residential purposes and frequently never moved from the site, to be licensed and to receive planning permission on the comparatively primitive requirements set out by the model byelaws. Until this is done (as a minimum) it is felt that caravans will continue to be considered, at least by this department, a sub-standard form of housing accommodation from which tenants will have to be re-housed in progression—pleading the lack of amenities especially as their families grow in size.

Two of the sites in the district are, however, taking some steps to provide part of their areas with facilities for accommodating caravans equipped with internal services. But the relative position to the public sewer of the whole of one site and part of another is such that these sites cannot be provided with these extra amenities without very substantial expenditure on the part of the site operator for the installation and maintenance of sewage pumping equipment in addition to the laying of new drains. It is felt that the time has now arrived when it should be a statutory requirement for each site to be equipped with these facilities or be debarred from use for caravans for permanent residents. In the same context, it would be well to keep in mind the observations made in the previous year's report to the effect that site and caravan rents are often substantial and not subject to legal restriction and this again tends to encourage persons, disillusioned with the low standard of caravan dwelling, to swell the lists of tenants for council housing.

The licence conditions that can be imposed for a holiday caravan site are even less stringent than can be applied in the case of a residential site. One such site, at Cosgrove Lodge Park, exists in the district but it is very well maintained and apart from one complaint, the reason for which could not be attributed to the site operator, no trouble was experienced which is more than can be said for the other residential sites in the rural district.

Cosgrove Lodge Park also is the only licensed camping site in the area ; the present consent allows the land to be used for 25 tents. This again has been very well supervised and maintained and the adequate sanitary accommodation and amenities provided has ensured that no complaints have been received by this department.

**Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963**—Registration for three establishments are in force, namely, two kennels and one cattery. The operators have complied with the Council's conditions for registration and no complaints were received during the year from the public.



**Cinemas and Halls**—There is one cinema in the district which possesses an efficient heating and ventilating system and adequate sanitary accommodation. Several well equipped village halls have been erected since the end of the war and the standard of kitchen and sanitary accommodation in many of the older buildings have been improved particularly as sewerage schemes have become available in the various villages. Other village halls will undoubtedly be modernized as new sewerage schemes are installed in the villages.

**Drainage of Trade Premises**—The public health department administer the practical requirements of this Act as far as they affect commercial premises by making the necessary surveys and taking samples of trade effluent for analysis as necessary.

There are now five consents in force under the Public Health (Drainage of Trade Premises) Act, 1937, amended by the Public Health Act, 1961, in respect of the acceptance of trade effluent into the public sewers. These consent notices concern premises involving slaughtering, meat product manufacture, dilute solution of chemicals, photographic materials and residues from wine bottling. Each of these consents include a clause providing for a charge to be made in each case depending on the strength and quality of the effluent—an appeal against the charge fixed against the trade waste from the abattoir is still awaiting a hearing by the Minister. Further surveys of farms in the district which require to discharge farm effluent into the public sewers are having to be carried out by the health department as new sewers become available. Agreement is reached with the occupier of each farm premises before the consent is issued because acceptance of the effluent involves a charge of £2 per thousand gallons. Efforts are made to persuade each farmer to deal with the effluent on his own land in order to lighten the load on the disposal works and at the same time to return valuable material to the land. At the time of writing 25 consents are in force in respect of farm effluents being discharged into sewers belonging to the Council.

**Clean Air Act, 1956**—One complaint was received regarding the emission of smoke from a factory chimney during the year and observations were kept and the management informed. This resulted in a great improvement but the emission of dark smoke from this chimney was noted on other occasions although complaints were not received from the public. Fortunately, this factory is soon to be replaced by a modern version where heating will be by means of gas which will remove the serious nuisance which has concerned the department for very many years.

**Statutory Nuisances**—It was not found necessary to take any formal action in the case of any complaint received during the year. Complaints investigated include alleged nuisance from blocked drains and sewers, housing defects, sewer ditches, defective sanitary conveniences, the keeping of animals and poultry, noise and effluvia from manufacturing processes. The number of complaints investigated concerning these and similar subjects, not separately mentioned in other parts of this report, amounted to 180.

Much time and effort was involved in the investigation of the cause of offensive smells experienced over a wide area of Stoke Bruerne. The Council are now aware that the nuisance arose from the new sewerage scheme and everything possible was done to prevent the emission of unpleasant odours from manholes and other ventilating points in the system. No entirely satisfactory explanation has yet been given for the occurrence and only time will determine whether the trouble is likely to recur. Similar trouble at Gayton—but in this instance confined to one premises—also consumed a considerable amount of time and investigation. The positive cure was obtained in this instance by the insertion of an interceptor in the drainage system. Subsequently, however, there have been further complaints from other residents which suggest that the original trouble may still be with us but up to the present no specific reason is apparent.

One complaint was received concerning the emission of red oxide dust into the atmosphere but, as in previous instances, the cause was due to a breakdown in the process which was quickly rectified. Several complaints were lodged against the emission of fumes of “burning wax” from an electronic component factory but here again the fault was found to be due, in each instance, to loss of efficiency in the apparatus employed to process the effluvia and was corrected immediately on the management being informed by this department.

**Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964**—The public health department attends to the registration of these premises and carries out any necessary inspections for the purpose of discovering whether any premises are used for the storage of scrap metal. During 1965 seven premises were registered for this purpose.

**Petroleum Storage Licences**—Previous annual reports have not referred to this particular aspect of the department's work and it was thought expedient that the Council should become aware of the work involved. Particular care has to be taken with a new installation—each has to be carefully inspected throughout its construction. This becomes very important in large retail depots or even in the case of single tanks of large sizes. By 1960 all existing installations were required to conform with certain requirements, especially electrically driven pumps, and all important depots were visited. Unfortunately it has not been possible to investigate every one of the smaller storage places in existence before the appointed day although the attention of each owner was drawn to the requirements. Pressure of other work has also not permitted the number of re-visits to be paid to the larger depots which ought actually to have been carried out. Apart from the installations themselves, it is necessary to check whether the requirements of the Conveyance By Road Regulations are being complied with although each owner was notified of the steps to be taken under these regulations and at the same time the necessary certificates were issued. The latter have to be completed before any petroleum spirit can be delivered and copies of these certificates are retained for twelve months in order that the inspector can examine them. Storage of inflammable liquids other than petroleum are also governed by the Petroleum Acts and one such licence is in force in the district for the



storage of a variety of liquids with flash points below 76°F. No wholesale depots now exist in the area—one which was hitherto used for this purpose is now utilized for the storage of vapourising and diesel oils which are outside the scope of the Act, but the depot is still subject to the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act. During 1965 there were 78 licences in force in the district permitting storage of petroleum spirit.

A new aspect of this subject has now come to light in connection with the use and storage of petroleum spirit on the Silverstone Racing Circuit and it has been found necessary for a member of the department to inspect the installations at several meetings during the year because strict compliance with the conditions of the licence were not always being observed. This has meant that the duties have to be carried out on Saturdays in addition to attendance at the abattoir. The department's attention has recently been drawn to legal requirements with regard to the storage of petroleum spirit which will mean a radical alteration in the method which has been permitted, up to the present, on the Silverstone Racing Circuit.



## SECTION D.

### HOUSING

A further twelve houses completed at Silverstone and six bungalows at Shutlanger increased the total number of Council owned houses in the district to 1832, slightly less than one third of the total number of dwelling houses in the whole of the rural area. Work on the warden-controlled flatlets for old people at Towcester was well advanced at the end of the year. The scheme comprises 12 bungalow units and four bed-sitting room flatlets together with central communal room and warden's accommodation. Sleeping accommodation is also provided for visitors and warning devices will link each of the units with the warden's flat and will be duplicated to allow for the absence of the warden. The scheme is intended to provide accommodation for suitable elderly people throughout the district so that the choice of tenants will not be confined to the parish of Towcester. It is felt that the housing of elderly people in this type of accommodation will go a long way to prevent the necessity for their compulsory removal to an institution as has often happened in the past.

More Council houses are in the course of erection at Towcester, Paulerspury, Greens Norton and Whittlebury and at the time of writing rapid progress was being made on the site works for the expansion of the Bickerstaffes Road area of Towcester, the completion of which will enable the Council to step up the rate of Council house building in Towcester itself where land has not been available for this purpose for some considerable time. It is also hoped that this will create the necessary opportunity for the removal of the pre-fabs which have now been in existence far beyond their intended span of life.

The modernisation of older Council houses continues apace, a further 67 being completed in 1965 bringing the total since the programme began to 438. Some of the existing contracts have not yet been completed while others will be ready for commencement in 1966.

One tenant made use of the powers available under Section 19 of the Housing Act, 1964 to make representations to the Council to secure the compulsory improvement of his house which hitherto the landlord had refused to carry out. This was the first official action taken by anyone under the Act and the Council were obliged to set the prescribed machinery in motion. Fortunately, the owner was persuaded by the department to carry out a scheme of improvement with the help of an improvement grant and this made it unnecessary for action to be taken in default. For the same reasons as expressed in the previous report, no organised work has yet been carried out for putting into effect that part of the Housing Act, 1964 dealing with improvement areas but it is hoped that some of the department's time can be channelled into this aspect of the work as soon as other arrears have been sufficiently reduced. Nevertheless, the fact must not be forgotten that the improvement of dwelling houses in the district is steadily proceeding either with or without the aid of grants. It must be admitted, however, that the provision of amenities

is more readily achieved in owner/occupied than in tenanted properties. The public health inspectors take advantage of every opportunity to persuade owners to improve their properties, at least to the standard of the five recognised amenities, especially in parishes where sewers have recently been installed and advice is being sought regarding the conversion of pail closets.

The number of dwellings improved with the aid of grants during the year amounted to 56, this number included 17 Discretionary Grants (10 owner/occupied and 7 tenanted) and 39 Standard Grants (29 owner/occupied and 10 tenanted). It is clear that the usual trend is again being followed in that the application for grants for owner/occupied houses is far greater than that for tenanted. Since the introduction of Improvement Grants, owners of private properties have received a total of 229 Standard and 180 Discretionary grants, the total amount of grant expenditure approved by the Council up to 31st December, 1965 actually amounted to £90,059.

During the year 13 unfit houses were dealt with individually under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957 ; in detail there were four Closing Orders, eight Demolition Orders and one undertaking not to re-let. Eleven cottages were demolished by owners in compliance with Demolition Orders but it was not found necessary for the Council to carry out any demolition in default. Three Demolition Orders and three Closing Orders were rescinded after improvement of the cottages by the owners concerned. In accordance with the provisions of the Housing Act, 1961, the Council have given instructions for the preparation of plans etc. in conjunction with an application for a Variation Order which will enable a Clearance Order on a cottage now made fit for human habitation to be withdrawn.

No Certificates of Disrepair were issued under the Rent Act during 1965 but one remains uncanceled because the owner has chosen not to carry out the necessary work.

Private housing estates are in course of construction at Deanshanger, Old Stratford, Cosgrove, Potterspury, Yardley Gobion, Greens Norton, Paulerspury, Pattishall and Towcester and planning permission for further private development has been given for more sites at Deanshanger, Potterspury, Yardley Gobion, Old Stratford, Silverstone and Towcester. The total number of private enterprise houses erected in the district during 1965 was 68—slightly less than the previous year but development has already been commenced on a further 496 houses and planning approval has been obtained for a further 154.

#### Provision of new Housing Accommodation

##### (a) PERMANENT HOUSES

Erected by Council pre-war	...	...	...	719
Erected by Council post-war	...	...	...	1,113
Completed during 1965	...	...	...	18
Under construction at 31/12/65	...	...	...	23
Erected by private enterprise post-war	...	...	...	776
Erected by private enterprise in 1965	...	...	...	68

##### (b) TEMPORARY HOUSES

Number completed to 31/12/65	...	...	...	30
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**Unfit Houses**

Dealt with as individual unfit houses post-war to 31/12/65	...	378
Dealt with in Clearance Areas post-war	...	—
Dealt with in Clearance Areas and still occupied	...	4
Demolished since 1945	...	565
Subject to Undertakings and Closing Orders at 31/12/65	...	74
Vacant and awaiting demolition at 31/12/65	...	13

**Improvement Grants**

(a) DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

Houses in respect of which improvements were completed  
by 31/12/65—

Occupied by tenants	...	90
Owner/occupiers	...	90

b) STANDARD GRANTS

Houses in respect of which improvements were completed  
by 31/12/65—

Occupied by tenants	...	73
Owner/occupiers	...	156

## SECTION E.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

**Milk Supply**—The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960 and 1963 are administered by the rural district council under powers delegated by the County Council. As there are no heat treatment plants or wholesale depots in the area, the Council are only concerned with retailers dealing with pre-packed milk, the number of which are greatly being reduced as they are taken over by combines and larger undertakings. Two small villages still have their milk direct from farmers who bottle under licences issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Only three grades of milk are now allowed to be sold, namely, Untreated, Pasteurised and Sterilised and the appropriate wording on the caps of bottles and on other containers have to comply with the Regulations. Milk with a recognised high fat content (such as Channel Island) can be so labelled.

Dealers licences in force in the district during 1965 were as follows :

#### **Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960 and 1963**

Licences for sale of pasteurised milk	...	...	...	12
Licences for sale of sterilised milk	...	...	...	7

All existing licences will be valid until the 31st December, 1970 as they remain effective for a five-year period after issue. All milk samples submitted for bacteriological analysis during the year proved to be satisfactory. Four complaints were received from the public regarding dirty condition of milk bottles all of which related to a particular dairy in another district. The matter was taken up with the proprietors and with the health department of the district concerned and the cause was remedied. Another report from a resident in the district alleging that he had received a milk bottle containing a quantity of paint was investigated by the department and the Food and Drugs authority but the allegations proved to be groundless.

**Food Premises**—The total number of food premises in the district is 158, all of which are, in varying degrees, subject to the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960. The number and type of such premises in the district are as follows :-

Village and general stores	...	...	...	60
Greengrocers' and fruit shops	...	...	...	4
Bakehouses	...	...	...	5
Fried fish shops	...	...	...	2
Bread and confectioners' shops	...	...	...	6
Cafés	...	...	...	7
Transport Cafés	...	...	...	3
Cooked meat manufacturers	...	...	...	1
Hotels with catering facilities	...	...	...	3
Butchers' shops	...	...	...	10
Private Hotels	...	...	...	2
Canteens	...	...	...	12
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	2
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	40
Wine and Spirit blending and bottling	...	...	...	1



The number of premises known to be fitted to comply with Regulation 16, i.e. as regards provision of wash-hand basins, is 145. The number of premises to which Regulation 19—provision of sink—applies is 187 and of these 173 are known to be so fitted. Unfortunately, it was not possible to cover all the premises during the year but more visits were paid to food premises in 1965 than had been possible for some time previous. The most important premises, from the point of view of public safety, received two or more visits and 10 informal notices were served. Every opportunity was taken to remind food handlers of the importance of hygienic practices and it is always appreciated if any member of the public makes a complaint to the department and is also prepared to give evidence in support. Immediate attention is given to any such complaint and as far as routine inspections were concerned, priority was given to food preparation premises. As the result of representations and notices served on one brewery company, the reconstruction of one licensed premises is now under way incorporating the department's requirements.

At least one visit per week was paid to the large meat products manufacturing factory in the district and 30 samples of their products were taken and submitted for bacteriological analysis. The results achieved were generally good but on one occasion a scanty growth of non-pathogenic bacteria was found. This, however, was sufficient for the whole process to be checked over and for the staff to be again reminded of the absolute necessity for the continual maintenance of hygienic conditions and practices. As stated in previous reports, the premises referred to were never entirely satisfactory, in the department's view, for the purpose for which they were used although a considerable sum of money had been spent on their adaption over the previous years. It is pleasing to record, therefore, that following further pressure and the service of an informal notice, the owners have finally decided to abandon the present premises and to re-build on another site. At the time of writing this is well in hand and the department has advised on layout and construction insofar as these affect food hygiene.

During the year a conviction under Section 2 Food and Drugs Act, 1955 was secured by the Chief public health inspector acting on behalf of the Council against a retailer for the sale of mouldy sausages. The conviction was recorded against a person with premises outside the district who retailed from a van at Deanshanger. Reports were also made to the Council concerning investigations into complaints of the sale of mouldy sausage rolls from a shop at Old Stratford, the sale of pork rolls at Towcester contaminated by maggots and the sale of a mouldy pork pie from a van also at Towcester. Convictions were obtained against the persons concerned in the first two cases—one taken under Section 2 and the other under Section 8 Food and Drugs Act, but charges in the third case had to be dropped because the offenders disappeared from their business address and could not be traced by the police. A complaint was also received from a resident at Towcester concerning maggots in a packet of breakfast cereal. It was found, however, that the actual sale took place in a nearby town and the department was obliged to pass the information and evidence to the public health department where the original transaction took place. This is a requirement of the Food and Drugs Act, but I am satisfied that enquiries were made at the retailer, wholesaler and manufacturer and the appropriate steps were taken to prevent the recurrence.



Two cases of sonne dysentery were notified during the year—apparently not connected—but no case of food poisoning arose from any cause attributable to conditions within the district. One notification of a person infected with salmonella typhimurium was received but investigation proved that the infection was present when the person moved from another area. A series of faecal samples were taken and submitted for analysis until the infection had subsided.

Until an incident, such as the sale of unsound food from a vehicle, occurs one is apt to forget the problems in food hygiene, and the extra duties involved, in dealing with itinerant food vendors and handlers and even more so in places with a seasonal attraction such as Cosgrove Lodge Park. Members of the Council may also fail to realise that large crowds attending meetings at Towcester Racecourse and particularly at the Silverstone Motor Racing Circuit add to the work of food hygiene control and also to the time, outside normal hours, which the public health inspector is expected to operate if the food hygiene regulations are to be properly enforced. Open-air meetings of the magnitude, and in the situation of the last mentioned, present particularly difficult problems both for the department and the food handlers. Lack of ordinary facilities add greatly to the problem and when staff has been available and willing to attend the meetings in addition to, or as an alternative to work at the abattoir, then stalls and canteens at race meetings have been visited. Certain matters already concerning the sale of food at such meetings was about to have been brought to the notice of the operators of the race track, following visits paid by the inspectors, but the recent introduction of the Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966 will now make it even more essential to ensure that these regulations are complied with.

**Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection**—Following an Order made by the Minister on the 13th June, 1963, the slaughter of animals in the district is now confined to one small private slaughterhouse at Potterspury and a large private abattoir at Blisworth. The number of animals killed at the latter is reputed to be one of the largest in this part of the Midlands. As well as the inspection of each animal and carcase in accordance with the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963, there is quite a problem in the continual maintenance of satisfactory standards of hygiene in the buildings themselves. Although recently erected these have been found in practice to be far from ideal in layout. Similarly it is not the easiest matter to ensure that personnel, accustomed to the comparatively primitive conditions which applied to slaughterhouses of earlier vintage, always strictly comply with modern requirements. Supervision is particularly difficult when the inspectors are busy with the post-mortem inspection of a continuous line of carcasses. At the time of writing, the trainee authorised meat inspector, who failed to qualify after several attempts, has been replaced by a fully qualified and competent meat inspector who has undoubtedly made it possible for more time to be spent on each carcase. The need for the latter was emphasised by the discovery of the issue of part of a carcase, which should have been detained, to a retailer in another county. It was never possible to pin-point exactly how the affected organ had escaped detection and detention. Although affected with a harmless parasite, the incident nevertheless could have been embarrassing



and the fact that it occurred serves to illustrate the necessity for the constant maintenance of inspection, as laid down in the regulations, and of the control of resultant products, particularly those destined for purposes other than human consumption. As it has previously been pointed out, the inspection of carcasses is only part of the inspector's duties—the responsibilities for the observance of the Meat (Staining and Sterilisation) Regulations, the control over the disposal of liquid and solid wastes and attention to the provisions of the hygiene and constructional regulations also occupy a significant part of the time of the inspector while he is engaged at the slaughterhouse.

The total number of animals slaughtered for human consumption and inspected in the district in 1965 was 82,648 as opposed to 69,791 in 1964 and 59,052 in 1963. It is evident that the yearly increase is substantial and overtime work continued on Saturdays and Sundays and late evenings during 1965. At the time of writing Sunday killing has been abandoned but the daily rate of throughput has increased to compensate for the time lost : the consequence being that the meat inspectors on duty have either to increase the speed of examination or their number has to be augmented during busy periods and the latter is, in my opinion, the only way to ensure that no slip-up occurs and this has, therefore, been done at the expense of other duties.

Specimens from ten carcasses were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory in order to confirm diagnoses or to ascertain the presence, or otherwise, of food poisoning organisms. Several cases were referred to the local officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food with whom the department works in collaboration.

**Condemned Meat**—A tremendous amount of condemned meat results from the abattoir and is collected by an approved dealer from another district for conversion into fertilisers, etc. The abattoir has also presented problems in the disposal of liquid and solid wastes resulting from the housing of animals and the slaughtering processes and in particular the disposal of the blood. Present arrangements for the disposal of these waste products are satisfactory.

**Ice-cream**—66 premises were registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream under Section 16 Food and Drugs Act, 1955. All ice-cream sold from these premises is pre-packed, and in each case the ice-cream is stored in thermostatically controlled refrigerating cabinets, complying with the Ice-cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1959.

## SECTION F.

### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The total number of infectious diseases notified in 1965 was 178. As one would expect, the majority of cases were measles. Heart and circulatory diseases again claimed the greatest number of deaths in the district but the total was 14 less than that of the previous year. Deaths from malignant diseases totalled 19—17 less than in 1964—those from lung cancer having dropped by 7 to a total of 3.

**Smallpox**—No cases notified.

**Scarlet Fever**—32 cases were notified.

**Puerperal Pyrexia**—No cases notified.

**Pneumonia**—13 cases of acute primary or acute influenzal pneumonia were notified as against 7 in 1964. Pneumonia in all forms was the certified cause of death in 3 cases. These deaths are not necessarily those of patients who were notified.

**Erysipelas**—One case was notified.

**Measles**—87 cases notified—a further drop in the number over 1963 which was the peak of a five-year cycle.

**Whooping Cough**—15 cases notified—also a substantial decrease over 1963 when 109 cases were notified.

**Anterior Poliomyelitis**—No cases were notified.

**Diphtheria**—No cases were notified.

**Cerebrospinal Meningitis**—No cases were notified.

**Food Poisoning**—No cases were notified.

**Sonne Dysentery**—Two cases were notified.

**Enteric Fever**—No cases were notified.

**Infective Hepatitis**—28 cases were notified and despite thorough investigation of each case by the public health department, no information was obtained as to the possible mode of infection.

**Tuberculosis**—Four new cases of Pulmonary tuberculosis (2 males, 2 females) were notified as compared with 1 in 1964. There was one death recorded due to this disease. Three cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis (1 male and 2 females) were also notified during the year. At the end of the year 83 persons in the district were known to be suffering from tuberculosis.

**Vaccination and Immunization**—Details of these figures are now only given in the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health.



# SECTION G.

## STATISTICAL TABLES, 1965.

TABLE No. 1

### CAUSES OF DEATH, 1965

<i>Causes of Death</i>						<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infection	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	3	—	3
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	—	3	3
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm	...	...	...	...	7	5	12
15.	Leukæmia, aleukæmia	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	11	12	23
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	19	17	36
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	2	3	5
20.	Other heart diseases	...	...	...	...	11	8	19
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	3	1	4
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	11	3	14
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach, duodenum	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
27.	Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	7	5	12
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	5	1	6
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	2	7	9
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
ALL CAUSES						91	70	161

TABLE No 2.

## VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1965 AND PREVIOUS YEARS

Year	Estimated population	Births		Deaths			
		No.	Rate	Under one year		All ages	
		No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
1919	*9,387 †9,011	156	16.61	7	44.87	158	17.53
1920	9,370	259	27.64	15	57.90	146	15.58
\$1921	9,920	211	21.27	21	99.52	131	13.20
1922	9,937	172	17.30	9	52.32	136	13.68
1923	9,944	171	17.19	9	52.63	120	12.06
1924	10,000	162	16.20	9	55.50	115	11.50
1925	9,959	150	15.06	8	53.33	123	12.35
1926	9,870	152	15.40	5	32.89	116	11.75
1927	9,887	144	14.56	8	55.55	115	11.63
1928	9,502	134	14.10	4	29.85	120	12.63
1929	9,398	139	14.79	6	43.16	138	14.68
1930	9,384	115	12.25	8	69.56	129	13.74
\$1931	9,324	131	14.04	7	53.43	104	11.11
1932	9,324	118	12.65	0	00.00	114	12.22
1933	9,271	147	15.85	4	27.21	96	10.35
1934	9,200	114	12.39	5	43.80	132	14.34
1935	†13,155	180	13.67	7	38.88	181	13.75
1936	13,040	210	16.10	10	47.60	165	12.60
1937	12,900	170	13.20	9	52.90	197	12.30
1938	12,860	152	11.80	4	26.30	182	14.20
1939	*12,930 †12,020	184	14.20	5	27.11	170	13.06
1940	13,190	184	13.90	7	36.95	219	16.55
1941	14,750	203	13.80	14	68.96	211	14.31
1942	14,050	244	17.40	12	49.18	147	10.47
1943	13,690	254	18.55	14	55.11	193	14.23
1944	13,680	242	17.67	8	33.01	192	14.04
1945	13,500	228	16.14	5	22.80	174	12.88
1946	13,490	273	20.24	13	47.25	178	13.19
1947	13,750	283	20.58	8	28.19	178	12.04
1948	13,910	238	17.11	13	54.62	184	13.23
1949	14,300	255	17.38	8	31.37	179	12.59
1950	14,470	217	15.00	7	32.25	197	13.61
\$1951	14,540	230	15.73	11	47.82	197	13.47
1952	14,490	219	15.1	7	31.9	171	11.8
1953	14,410	241	16.7	2	12.4	144	9.9
1954	14,440	230	15.9	7	30.4	181	12.5
1955	14,490	208	14.3	3	14.4	172	11.8
1956	14,450	250	17.3	6	24.0	193	13.3
1957	14,420	221	15.3	5	22.6	155	10.7
1958	14,410	262	18.2	7	26.7	188	13.06
1959	14,550	242	16.6	6	24.7	163	11.1
1960	14,660	284	19.3	2	7.0	142	9.6
\$1961	15,370	256	16.6	4	27.3	181	11.7
1962	15,460	250	16.17	6	24.0	173	11.2
1963	15,640	304	19.5	2	6.6	181	11.6
1964	16,140	304	18.5	6	19.5	184	11.4
1965	16,290	321	19.7	4	12.4	161	9.8

\* Population for calculation of birth rates.

† Population for calculation of death rates

‡ Potterspury R.D. added to district

\$ Census years.



TABLE No. 3

## WATER SUPPLY—INFORMATION RELATING TO PIPED SUPPLIES

<i>Parish</i>	PROPERTIES CONNECTED TO PUBLIC MAINS			PROPERTIES DEPENDING ON PRIVATE SUPPLIES		
	<i>Total no. of houses in parish</i>	<i>No. of houses served</i>		<i>Wells</i>	<i>Springs</i>	<i>No. of houses served</i>
		<i>Internal supplies</i>	<i>Stand pipes</i>			
Abthorpe ... ..	99	94	—	3	2	5
Adstone ... ..	33	23	—	8	—	10
Blakesley ... ..	137	131	—	4	—	6
Blisworth ... ..	351	347	—	2	—	4
Bradden ... ..	33	27	—	5	—	6
Cold Higham ... ..	80	73	—	4	1	7
Cosgrove ... ..	165	160	—	4	—	5
Deanshanger ... ..	523	513	—	6	2	10
Easton Neston ... ..	34	29	—	5	—	5
Gayton ... ..	137	135	—	3	—	2
Grafton Regis ... ..	71	67	—	5	—	4
Greens Norton ... ..	211	205	—	3	1	6
Litchborough ... ..	90	87	—	4	—	3
Maidford ... ..	59	57	—	4	—	2
Old Stratford ... ..	272	269	—	2	—	3
Pattishall ... ..	276	251	—	18	—	25
Paulerspury ... ..	315	305	—	9	1	10
Potterspury ... ..	308	302	1	4	1	6
Shutlanger ... ..	84	80	—	3	1	4
Silverstone ... ..	350	340	—	9	1	10
Slapton ... ..	34	31	—	1	2	3
Stoke Bruerne ... ..	118	110	—	1	1	8
Tiffield ... ..	62	56	—	6	—	6
Towcester ... ..	1001	986	—	7	—	15
Wappenham ... ..	101	89	—	10	—	12
Weston and Weedon ... ..	106	95	—	7	—	11
Whittlebury ... ..	144	139	—	6	—	5
Wicken ... ..	104	102	—	2	—	2
Woodend ... ..	71	58	—	6	—	13
Yardley Gobion ... ..	211	202	—	4	—	9

TABLE No. 4

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

<i>Parish</i>	<i>House drains discharging to</i>			<i>Houses with</i>	
	<i>Sewers</i>	<i>Cess-pools or septic tanks</i>	<i>Roadside drains, ditches, etc.</i>	<i>W.Cs.</i>	<i>Pail Closets</i>
Abthorpe ...	—	40	59	40	59
Adstone ...	—	12	24	16	17
Blakesley ...	19	51	67	70	67
Blisworth ...	331	15	5	338	13
Bradden ...	—	18	15	18	15
Cold Higham ...	—	39	41	47	33
Cosgrove ...	147	17	1	162	3
Deanshanger ...	511	9	3	518	5
Easton Neston ...	26	6	2	32	2
Gayton ...	119	10	8	107	30
Grafton Regis ...	—	40	31	40	31
Greens Norton ...	176	33	2	209	2
Litchborough ...	—	38	52	40	50
Maidford ...	—	37	22	37	22
Old Stratford ...	256	6	1	271	1
Pattishall ...	196	40	40	235	41
Paulerspury ...	293	16	6	300	15
Potterspury ...	282	23	3	302	6
Shutlanger ...	80	3	1	75	9
Silverstone ...	334	7	9	343	7
Slapton ...	—	29	5	29	5
Stoke Bruerne ...	101	12	5	113	5
Tiffield ...	56	4	2	54	8
Towcester ...	945	41	15	991	15
Wappenham ...	—	60	41	79	22
Weston & Weedon	18	62	26	80	26
Whittlebury ...	128	10	6	139	5
Wicken ...	93	6	5	93	11
Woodend ...	—	38	33	49	22
Yardley Gobion	200	11	—	208	3



PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

TABLE NO. 5

	Type of Property				
	Non-Agricultural				Agri-cultural
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)	All other (including Business Premises)	Total of Cols. (1) (2) & (3)	
Number of properties in Local Authority's District (Notes 1 and 2) ... ..	165	5734	553	6452	260
Total number of <i>properties inspected</i> as a result of <i>notification</i> ... ..	1	43	11	55	8
Number of such properties found to be infested by : ...					
Common Rat Major ...	—	—	—	—	—
Minor ...	1	40	10	51	4
Ship Rat Major ...	—	—	—	—	—
Minor ...	—	—	—	—	—
House Mouse Major ...	—	—	—	—	—
Minor ...	—	3	1	4	2
Total number of <i>properties inspected</i> in the course of <i>survey under the Act</i> ... ..	165	121	30	316	54
Number of such properties found to be infested by : ...					
Common Rat Major ...	—	—	—	—	—
Minor ...	37	6	1	44	26
Ship Rat Major ...	—	—	—	—	—
Minor ...	—	—	—	—	—
House Mouse Major ...	—	—	—	—	—
Minor ...	—	1	—	1	—
Total number of <i>properties otherwise inspected</i> (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose) ... ..	2	114	196	312	3
Number of such properties found to be infested by : ...					
Common Rat Major ...	—	—	—	—	—
Minor ...	1	1	1	3	1
Ship Rat Major ...	—	—	—	—	—
Minor ...	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE NO. 5—continued.

## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

			Type of Property				
			Non-Agricultural				Agri- cultural
			Local Authority	Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)	All other (including Business Premises)	Total of Cols. (1) (2) & (3)	
House Mouse	Major	...	—	—	—	—	—
	Minor	...	—	—	—	—	—
Total inspections carried out— including re-inspections			220	320	284	824	154
Number of <i>infested properties</i> (in Sections II, III and IV) treated by the L.A.			39	51	13	103	33
Total treatments carried out— including re-treatments			246	64	13	323	125
Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act :							
(a) Treatment	...	...	Nil	—	—	—	—
(b) Structural work (i.e., Proofing)...	...	...	Nil	—	—	—	—
Number of cases in which default action was taken fol- lowing the issue of a notice under Sect. 4 of the Act			Nil	—	—	—	—
Legal Proceedings			Nil	—	—	—	—
Number of “Block” control schemes carried out			Nil	—	—	—	—



TABLE NO. 6

CARCASES AND OFFAL  
INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>
Number killed (if known) ...	11,059	44	31,727	39,818
Number Inspected ... ..	11,059	44	31,727	39,818
<b>All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerci—</b>				
Whole carcasses condemned	5	2	23	17
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	3,831	3	3,868	3,640
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ... ..	34.68	11.36	12.3	9.18
<b>Tuberculosis only :</b>				
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	1	Nil	450	Nil
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis ... ..	0.009	Nil	1.42	Nil
<b>Cysticercosis—</b>				
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	92	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ...	8	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalized and totally con- demned ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

FOOD (OTHER THAN FRESH MEAT)  
SURRENDERED AND DESTROYED

Frozen Liver ... ..	80 lbs.
Frozen Poultry ... ..	7 lbs.
Frozen Foods (various) ... ..	189 packets
Ice-cream ... ..	113 packets
Canned Fruit ... ..	14 lbs.
Canned Vegetables ... ..	65 cans
Canned Ham ... ..	36 lbs.
Canned Fish ... ..	1 can
Wet Fish ... ..	70 lbs.
Fruit Juice ... ..	4 tins
Creamed Rice ... ..	3 tins
Sausages ... ..	10 lbs.

TABLE No. 7

**MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.**  
(Other than Tuberculosis), 1964

<i>Disease</i>	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	TOTAL
Measles ...	3	5	19	18	16	14	1	2	—	—	5	4	87
Whooping Cough	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	8	1	3	—	—	15
Pneumonia ...	—	2	1	1	3	1	—	1	—	—	4	—	13
Scarlet Fever ...	1	1	5	—	3	2	1	—	—	—	2	17	32
Infective Hepatitis	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	8	6	4	2	4	28
Erysipelas ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Sonne Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
TOTAL ...	4	9	28	19	22	20	3	21	7	7	13	25	178

TABLE No. 8

**AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.**  
(Other than Tuberculosis), 1964

<i>Disease</i>	—1	—2	—3	—4	—5	—10	—15	—20	—35	—45	—65	65+	TOTAL
Measles ...	11	13	14	13	22	13	1	—	—	—	—	—	87
Whooping Cough	—	—	1	3	4	6	—	1	—	—	—	—	15
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	6	—	2	3	13
Scarlet Fever ...	2	2	1	3	7	9	5	2	—	—	1	—	32
Infective Hepatitis	—	—	—	2	1	5	6	4	5	4	1	—	28
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Sonne Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
TOTAL ...	13	15	16	21	34	33	12	9	14	4	4	3	178



TABLE No. 9

INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES  
(Other than Tuberculosis), 1965  
INDIVIDUAL PARISHES

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Measles</i>	<i>Whooping Cough</i>	<i>Pneumonia</i>	<i>Scarlet Fever</i>	<i>Infective Hepatitis</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Erysipelas</i>	<i>Sonne Dysentery</i>
Blakesley ... ..	2	—	—	3	—	—	—	5
Blisworth ... ..	12	3	—	4	3	1	—	23
Bradden ... ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Cosgrove ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Cold Higham ... ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Deanshanger ... ..	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	5
Easton Neston ... ..	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	3
Gayton ... ..	3	3	1	—	—	—	—	7
Grafton Regis ... ..	2	—	—	—	3	—	—	5
Greens Norton ... ..	5	—	—	—	4	—	—	9
Litchborough ... ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Old Stratford ... ..	6	—	1	1	—	—	—	8
Pattishall ... ..	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Paulerspury ... ..	—	—	2	—	11	—	—	13
Potterspury ... ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Silverstone ... ..	1	—	—	1	2	—	—	4
Stoke Bruerne ... ..	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	3
Towcester ... ..	42	—	1	16	3	—	2	64
Wappenham ... ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Weston and Weedon...	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
Whittlebury ... ..	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Yardley Gobion ... ..	1	9	1	—	1	—	—	12
TOTAL ... ..	87	15	13	32	28	1	2	178

TABLE No. 10.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937,  
for the year 1965

PART I OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector) :

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupier Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ..	2	2	--	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	77	49	1	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	17	55	—	—
TOTAL ... ..	96	106	1	—

2. Cases in which defects were found:

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases of which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ... ..	1	1	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) ... ..					
(a) Insufficient ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ... ..	1	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ... ..	2	2	Nil	Nil	Nil

3. No outworkers were notified in the district during 1965.





